

Applicant: Cracknell et al.
Application No.: 10/587,873

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 37 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 – 17 and 26 – 37 were previously withdrawn. By the foregoing amendment, Claim 24 has been amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 18, 20 – 23, and 25 are allowed.

Claim Objections

The Action objected to Claim 24 because "fingers" appears in line 3 of the claim, which should recite "finger" since only a second retractable finger has been recited. Claim 24 has been amended to recite "finger" instead of "fingers." Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Action considers Claim 18 to recite that the opening of the slot receives a nozzle of an adhesive applicator. Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of the claim, as Claim 18

recites that the slot has an opening “being of sufficient to receive a nozzle of an adhesive applicator.” This claim language limits the width of the slot, not the fact that the nozzle is actually received in the slot. In other words, Claim 18 states that the width of the slot is greater than the width of the nozzle, so that the nozzle can be received in the slot if that particular configuration is desired, but does not require the nozzle to be received in the slot.

With this understanding of Claim 18, it is clear that the nozzle can be mounted above the slot (as recited by Claim 19) or below the slot. If the nozzle is mounted below the slot, the nozzle passes through the slot in order to apply the glue, as shown in Fig. 5 of the present application. However, if the nozzle is mounted above the slot, then the nozzle does not have to pass through the slot in order to apply glue. The present apparatus is designed with flexibility in mind. It is possible, using this apparatus, to deliver glue to the folded sheets either from above or below, without undue adaptation.

A first arrangement of the present apparatus is described at paragraph [0033] of the published application in which “a glue applicator 23 . . . is provided between the support surfaces 21 and 22 and is aligned with the slot 40 such that the nozzle 23a . . . is positioned to apply cold glue along the inside of the fold line.” As stated in paragraph [0034], there is an alternative arrangement in which “the glue applicator 23 may be positioned between and above the support surfaces 21, 22 and

aligned so as to apply glue to the outside of the fold line.” (emphasis added). Only the position of the nozzle has been changed. There has been no change to the structure of the slot, which is still of sufficient width to allow the nozzle to pass through, as recited by Claim 18. The fact is, in the second embodiment where the adhesive applicator is mounted above the support service and it is unnecessary for the slot to receive the nozzle, the slot size does not need to change. The design of the present apparatus allows it to be used for many types of bindings without reconfiguration or reassembly. One run of booklets may be glued on the outside and the next run on the inside. By ensuring that the slot is of sufficient width to receive the nozzle, this can be achieved by moving only the position of the nozzle, not that of the support sheets and slot. The apparatus may be made even more readily adaptable by providing “two glue applicators . . . one above and one below . . . the slot 40 between the support surfaces.” (Published Application, para. [0034]). This embodiment avoids the need to move the nozzle between the two different positions described above to glue different bindings. All of these possible embodiments are covered by the apparatus of Claim 18, which recites a slot with an opening that is sized to have a “sufficient width to receive a nozzle of an adhesive applicator” to accommodate different positions where the nozzle can be arranged. The specific embodiment described in Claim 19 is one in which the nozzle is positioned in preparation for a run of books that are glued along the outside of the fold line,

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whilst remaining prepared for a possible subsequent run in which gluing from the inside is required.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the § 112 rejection of Claim 19 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that an interview will advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including all of the pending claims, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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